

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2002.**

**ATTENDANCE**

**COUNCIL:** Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (Chair - District 4), Jerry Trumps (Vice Chair - District 6), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Robert Castille (District 2), Chris Williams (District 3), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

**ABSENT:** None

**COUNCIL STAFF:** Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk of the Council) and Anne Patin (Senior Administrative Assistant)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** Walter S. Comeaux, Jr. (City-Parish President), Glenn Weber (CAO), Becky LaLumia (Associate CAO/Finance Management), Benny Soulier (Director of Administrative Services), Chief Ronald Boudreaux (Police Department), Chief Robert Benoit (Fire Department), Robert Benoit (Director of Planning, Zoning and Codes), Gerald Boudreaux (Director of Parks & Recreation), Terry Huval (Utilities Director), Tim Breaux (Director of Community Development), John Raines (Public Works Director), Steve Dupuis (Legal Counsel), Tony Tramel (Director of Transportation)

**COMMENCEMENT**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(173) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. called the Special Lafayette City-Parish Council Meeting of September 26, 2002 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(182) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Jerry Trumps was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADDED ITEM**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(199) A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Trumps to add a resolution to the agenda, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was unanimously approved.*

R-050-2002 A resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council authorizing the Lafayette City-Parish President to sign an agreement between the State of Louisiana, Louisiana Housing Finance Agency ("LHFA") and the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government for administration of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families ("TANF") Metropolitan Substandard Housing Assistance Grant Program, motion to adopt by Menard, seconded by Castille, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was unanimously approved.*

Upon questioning by Broussard, Breaux explained that this was just received by the President's office at the beginning of this week and reviewed. These are carry-over monies that are being distributed across the State from the Housing and Finance Authority. There was just enough time for Legal to review and an answer must be received by Louisiana Housing Finance Agency by Wednesday, September 27, 2002 by 5:00 p.m.

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(270) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: O-186-2002 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council adopting an Operating and Capital Budget of revenues and expenditures for the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2002 and ending October 31, 2003.

1. A motion was offered by Williams, seconded by Badeaux to adopt O-186-2002 as amended (amendment being to amend Section 4(a) to read as follows: *State law requires that certain firemen be given a 2% longevity salary increase each year. Accordingly, 2% of the 3% salary increase included herein shall be deemed to be a "longevity" salary increase given in accordance with State law;* to amend Section 4(b) to read as follows: *A pay reserve has been established for changes to the starting pay in the Police pay plan. The City-Parish President is hereby authorized to transfer said reserve funds by administrative budgetary revision to the applicable salary accounts within the Police Department once the pay plan change is approved;* to amend Section 4(c) to read as follows: *A 3% pay increase has been established to provide pay raises for all full-time classified and unclassified employees and eligible elected officials. The Lafayette City-Parish Civil Service employees pay plan is hereby amended to apply a 3% increase to the minimums and maximums of each pay range;* and to add a new Section 4(j) to read as follows: *Whereas a Market Aligned Pay Plan (MAPP) is pending for the Utilities Department with a list of 37 classifications identified for inclusion in the MAPP, vacancies in these positions are expected to be difficult to fill until full implementation of the MAPP can be accomplished. Current vacancies of these MAPP positions have been included in this budget at the midpoint pay of the current pay plan. In the event that additional MAPP positions become vacant during the fiscal year before the implementation of the MAPP, the Associate CAO-Finance & Mgt, through the City-Parish President, is authorized to effect changes to Utilities Department salary accounts as needed to provide funding up to the midpoint pay of the current pay plan through intra-departmental, administrative budgetary revisions) and with General Amendments.*

Lalumia explained that according to the Proforma –City of Lafayette, Column F, there will be a balance of \$122,653 (reserve balance) with all approved general amendments. Anticipated fund balance carry over is \$6,6000,000 for a total fund balance of \$12,622,653. Under the Proforma – Parish of Lafayette, with approved general amendment, show net revenues of a negative \$652,724 which leaves in reserve \$747,276. Total fund balance projected is \$4,547,276. Under the Proforma – City of Lafayette Sales Tax, with approved general amendments the projected fund balance is \$1,151,032. Lalumia warned that if all separate amendments are approved (Exhibit D-1) then the City of Lafayette budget will run in the negative. In 2002-03, the prior year fund balance will be a negative \$793,031, in 2003-04 it will be a negative \$1,643,201, in 2004-05 it will be a negative \$614,826 and in 2005-06 it will be a negative \$732,697. Only \$387,000 of line item spending can be added to the budget without changing the totals.

Williams clarified that all External Agencies were included in the General Amendments and were funded at last year's level.

2. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Stevenson to approve separate amendment #1, Community Policing – delete Community Oriented Government Coordinator.

Bruno explained that a position was needed to take care of many organizational type duties. He further explained that separate amendments 1 & 2 were totally revenue neutral and that line items were reduced to make this budget neutral.

After much discussion, Trumps and Stevenson withdrew their motion.

3. Separate amendment #2, Community Policing – add back Receptionist, was withdrawn by Williams.
4. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Mouton to approve separate amendment #3, Jefferson Street Maintenance (contractual services) – delete \$30,550.

A substitute amendment was offered by Mouton, seconded by Stevenson to reduce the \$30,550 allocation by \$19,500 for a balance of \$10,550, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

NAYS: Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Menard

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was approved.*

DDA Director Cathy Webre gave a brief presentation on the functions of DDA. Upon the request of Chair Benjamin, she recommended that the Council leave this line item at \$30,550. CAO Weber concurred with that recommendation.

Upon questioning by Stevenson, Mouton explained that the \$19,500 reduction is the value which the Finance Department has put on the services provided to DDA, i.e., payroll, IRS filings, bank reconciliation. Other LCG departments, such as the Library and LUS are charged a percentage of their budget for these same services. He opined that there should be some cost recovery to the General Fund.

5. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Williams to approve separate amendment #8, Rental Unit Inspection Program – to add a Code Inspector II at \$39,984, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Castille, Williams, Benjamin

NAYS: Badeaux, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion failed*

Williams explained that if this amendment passes, it would be moved to remove the vehicle from this particular program. This amendment would allow a one year analysis of creating a rental inspection program for the City and unincorporated areas of Lafayette. This is a one-time allocation and next year the cost would be borne 100% by the inspection fees, with the exception of a capital purchase of office equipment.

Stevenson rebutted that a program like this, although it seems good on the surface, will not work for Lafayette. There is already a system in place and anybody can call Community Development to have their dwelling inspected. He opined that this program would be open to corruption and would cause lawsuits. Education of the public is what is needed.

Williams answered that there is a shortage of 800 units in the City right now. This inspector may increase that 800 to some number that is over 1000. But when you weigh that against losing lives every year because the slumlords are jacking people up and renters are paying \$300 to \$400 rent a month, it's a problem that exists. The Council must take a stand to deal with this.

Upon questioning by Mouton, Breaux explained that landlords who take advantage of renters can be reported to Fair Housing where they have Federal penalties. On a local level, the regular housing code enforcement prevails.

Benjamin added his support of this motion. He stated that as the program is developed he would like to see criminal penalties put in.

6. Separate amendment #10, Newly Accepted Unimproved Street Reconstruction, was withdrawn by Trumps.
7. Separate amendment #11, Adult Correction Center Adjustments, was withdrawn by Stevenson.

Stevenson explained that anyone that sees the Center can tell the place needs renovations. Due to Ms. Lalumia's report on the meager fund balance and the Sheriff asking for an increase in sales tax, there is no use to put the City-Parish in jeopardy.

8. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Stevenson to approve separate amendment #12, Inhouse Courthouse Complex Maintenance.

Raines explained that there were 8 janitors positions at the Courthouse and over a period of time several of these positions have been vacated and Public Works has not be able to

replace, therefore, not keeping up with the level of service required. Several of the floors in the Courthouse were outsourced and that left four janitors working the remaining of the floors. The intent was to keep the four janitors and try to use them in other locations throughout the government and to add new buildings as they come on-line. For in-house, fully staffed the cost comes to \$333,925.00. If fully privatized, the cost was \$324,544.00. Raines then proposed that the four janitors be kept, go with a partial privatization for the remainder of the Courthouse, and that would save \$23,776.00. Lalumia added that the General Amendment was cutting the eight (8) janitorial positions, only, and leaving one (1) Building Superintendent.

A substitute motion was offered by Castille, seconded by Broussard to fund the four (4) filled, janitorial positions, fund partial privatization for the Courthouse by deleting this amount from the janitorial services account, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Menard

NAYS: Williams, Benjamin, Stevenson,

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was approved.*

9. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Williams to approve separate amendment #14, Environmental Quality Manager (elimination).

Williams stated that it was never implied by himself or the Council that the whole Environmental Quality Department was deficient in providing services to the public. He then withdrew his second to the motion and requested that the Public Works Liaison Committee meet with the Public Works Director to make recommendations for adjustments to the Environmental Quality Division. The Chair concurred with Williams' recommendation.

10. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Williams to approve separate amendment #15, Proposal to Bring Minimum Wage to \$6.15/hr as amended (amendment being *to move the \$15,718, needed for the 23 positions, to Council Reserve with a specific line item pending Civil Service action for the compression*), and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was unanimously approved.*

It was determined by Soulier that the lowest pay was \$5.45 and the highest pay is \$6.00. Raising the minimum wage to \$6.15 will compress the five lower levels of pay. It will not create a ripple affect for pay ranges above the fifth level.

Upon questioning by Benjamin, Dupuis explained that the Civil Service Board is established through the State Constitution. The ripple effect, itself, is a local pay plan that the Board adopts. Weber added that the ripple effect is a decision of the Civil Service Board, exclusively. Weber felt the Board was very sensitive to the ripple effect and is a realignment rule and the Board will allow the ripple effect with a ceiling on it.

11. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Williams to approve separate amendment #16, Night Bus Service Grant Match, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was unanimously approved.*

Trumps explained that at a previous meeting, Chair Benjamin requested the \$250,000 match be added in the 2002-2003 Budget as part of this budget process.

A motion was offered by Williams, seconded by Badeaux to place the \$250,000 in reserve pending the October 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting. *Motion was withdrawn after Trumps informed the Council that this was the intent of his motion.*

Weber then interjected that discussion on the Storm Water position will have to take place before Spring.

The Chair then called for a 5 minute recess.

12. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Williams to approve separate amendment #4, Sidewalks-Buchanan (Mudd/Pierce), and the vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
RECUSED: None  
*Motion was unanimously approved.*

Williams explained that this sidewalk will go from Walmart on the Thruway to S. Pierce St. There are no sidewalks there now. This will allow pedestrians in the surrounding area to walk to Walmart for their shopping. Upon questioning by Castille, Logan explained that the 97/98 project schedule had just been completed and all funds had been allocated. In order to construct this project, additional funds over and above the current projects budgeted will have to be allocated from the General Fund.

Broussard asked Finance Director for a recommendation on the separate amendments. Lalumia stated that her recommendation is that the Council leave approximately \$700,00 to \$800,000 in reserve, which would mean the Council could only spend another \$350,000 or so.

13. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Williams to approve separate amendment #5, Reading Road Extension, and the vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Menard  
NAYS: Badeaux, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson  
ABSENT: None  
RECUSED: None  
*Motion failed.*

Williams explained that the question is, is this a new project going against the Council's moratorium on new projects. This new road would accommodate both the new J. Wallace James School and True Vine Ministries School.

Bishop Jarvis Harmon stated that he was requesting a new street which would run north and south along the western border of True Vine Ministries (connecting Bowers Road to West Willow Street). Since the opening of J. Wallace James Elementary School, traffic has been backed up and people are using the True Vine Ministries parking lot to avoid traffic. He also understood that another new street was being constructed on the western side of J. Wallace James and requested that this street be extended another 900 feet, south of West Willow St. This area is now a dirt road used by both area residents and businesses. He then requested that the new street be named True Vine Avenue or Faith Avenue.

Williams added that there is a definite need for a street to accommodate the new school, in addition to the services at True Vine Ministries. It was inadvertently left out. That portion of the street should have been included with Reading Road. He urged support on this amendment.

Upon questioning by the Council, Raines explained that there is a dedicated right of way adjacent to True Vine, and adjacent to the dedicated right of way is LUS property. The dedication that True Vine gave was not the normal standard street. It was probably about 5 feet short. Raines felt he could approach LUS to negotiate for the additional right of way just for the road. Bishop Harmon agreed to negotiate the right of way for the road, however; LUS Director Terry Huval reserved his right until he could research the utility side of this issue.

Broussard rebutted that the Council unanimously adopted a three-year moratorium to hold all new projects unless it proved to be an emergency. Is this a new project or is it not? He stated that he saw it as a new street and could not support this amendment.

14. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Menard to approve separate amendment #6, Municipal Golf Course Irrigation Upgrade.

Upon questioning by Menard, Lalumia explained that these funds were allocated in the General Amendments to purchase the Townhouse and approving this separate amendment would cause a deficit.

Menard withdrew his second and the item was withdrawn. Menard mentioned that there were no funds for Separate Amendments 6 and 7 and he would withdraw both.

15. Separate amendment #7, Vieux Chenes Irrigation Upgrade, was withdrawn. (See Item 14)

16. Separate amendment #8, (Capital Items), was withdrawn.

17. Separate amendment #9, Center Cinema Parking Lot Improvements, was withdrawn by Castille.

18. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Stevenson to approve separate amendment #13, LUS Relocation Reimbursement, and the vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
RECUSED: None  
*Motion was unanimously approved.*

Upon questioning by Menard, Logan explained that a new agreement was executed whereby Public Works pays for the first \$2,000,000 of utility relocation costs. An audit was done to determine what was Public Works costs and what was LUS costs. Huval added LUS and Public Works went through a process to verify the numbers and are comfortable that the dollars placed in the budget were accurate.

Upon questioning by Williams, Lalumia stated that there is a balance in CIP for the current year reserve of \$1,169,000; the second year \$405,000; third year \$362,000; and the fourth year \$408,000. In order to have a cushion for things that might come up, \$600,000 to \$700,000 would be appropriate. When this year's budget was proposed, \$679,000 was recommended and right now the reserve is at \$1,169,000, with only \$400,000 the second year.

19. An amendment was offered by Stevenson, seconded by Broussard to reduce the Non-Utility Replacement Car line item by \$132,700.00 (pertains to "people-moving" passenger vehicles only, under 100,000 miles), and the vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
RECUSED: None  
*Motion was unanimously approved.*

Stevenson reminded the Council that a similar amendment was approved by the LPUA. This amendment involved only passenger cars with low mileage excluding police cars.

Upon questioning by Broussard, Raines explained that it may well be an indication that the vehicle is wrecked, that the cost of running the vehicle is excessive to that which is a normal standard, that the vehicle, for the use that it is intended, is no longer satisfactory for that use.

Lalumia reminded that the Council would have to pass the same amendment on the LUS funds, also, in this budget adoption because LUS' budget is part of this.

20. An amendment was offered by Stevenson, seconded by Trumps to reduce the Utility Replacement Car line item by \$63,500.00 (pertains to "people-moving" passenger vehicles only, under 100,000 miles), and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
RECUSED: None  
*Motion was unanimously approved.*

**The following individuals were recognized to speak:**

Naomi Celestin did not wish to speak but she opposed the cutting of the Recycling Program.

Larry Baker signed to speak in reference to External Agencies, but had already left the meeting.

Sarah Brabant signed to speak in reference to External Agencies, but had already left the meeting.

Tim Paradine signed to speak in reference to External Agencies, but had already left the meeting.

Marie Poutz signed to speak in reference to the Environmental Quality Division, but had already left the meeting.

Mary Ann Ficaro addressed the Council concerning the additional \$150,000 allocated for AIS over the next two (2) years and how many buses would be provided. Tramel explained that one (1) AIS vehicle is the estimate identified, however; if there is more demand later then additional vehicles will be provided.

21. The Chair then called for a vote on O-186-2002, as amended, and including the General Amendments, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
RECUSED: None  
*Motion was unanimously approved.*

(TAPE 3)(SIDE A)(132) AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: O-187-2002 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council adopting a Multi-Year Capital Improvement Program for the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government, commencing with fiscal year 2002-2003.

1. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Mouton to approve O-187-2002 as amended.
2. A motion was offered by Trumps, seconded by Broussard to approve separate amendment #17, 5-year Capital – City Bonds (Ile des Cannes, Lateral 3 and S. College Ext., Phase I) as amended (amendment being to delete S. College Ext., Phase I from the separate amendments and to eliminate the changes in the general amendments (lines 17 and 18) referencing Bluebird Drive Extension and South College Extension, Phase I), and the vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Menard  
RECUSED: None  
*Motion was unanimously approved.*

Logan explained that due to implied legal action, the right of way settlement for Bluebird and the Government's obligation to build Bluebird was part of the overall right of way acquisition from the same property owner for the extension of Camellia Blvd. The concern of the area residents was that the road would be built only for the benefit of the property owner. Weber added that the Administration has requested Councilmember Mouton to pull the Bluebird Drive Extension at this time and recognize the concerns of the constituents in this area. He made a public commitment to not proceed with the connection until some type of design is presented that is acceptable to all residents of the area.

3. Separate amendment #18, 5-year Capital – City Bonds (Streetscape - Jefferson to St. John), was withdrawn by Williams.

4. Separate amendment #19, 5-year Capital – City Bonds (Streetscape – Cypress to Thruway), was withdrawn by Williams.
5. The Chair then called for the vote on O-187-2002 including the separate amendments and one change to the general amendments (see Item 2), and the vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson,  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Menard  
RECUSED: None  
*Motion was unanimously approved.*

(TAPE 3)(SIDE B)(012) AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Benjamin declared the meeting adjourned.

---

NORMA A. DUGAS  
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL